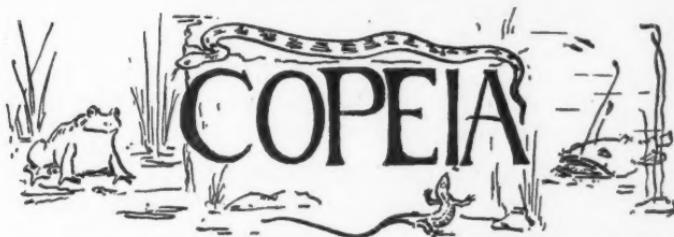


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## NOTE ON A NESTING SUNFISH

During the last few days of May, 1914, the writer observed over twenty "nests" of the common sunfish (*E. gibbosus*) along the shore of Umpawaug Pond, Topstone, Conn.

An examination of a few of these did not disclose any eggs, although many of them were guarded by the spunky little males.

These nests could readily be seen through the clear water as saucer-like depressions from which the mud and debris had been cleared, exposing the pebbles and sand.

On one of these nest guardians the writer tried an experiment. Dropping a water-logged piece of heavy fishline into the centre of the nest he awaited results. The sunfish eyed it suspiciously, nibbled at it and then bore it off two feet from the edge of the nest. This experiment was repeated with various objects with the same result. Finally a half a dozen were thrown in at once, to the consternation of the sunfish, who retreated. Two days later the writer observed the same nest with the objects in place, but along side of it a brand new nest with the little sunfish on guard.

DWIGHT FRANKLIN,

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## FISHES SWALLOWED BY GAR PIKE

As is well known, gar pikes are highly predacious fish. They devour vast numbers of food and game fishes; and in localities where they are abundant they are treated as pests and destroyed by the thousand.

But although their voracious habits are well-known, there do not appear to be any definite records as to the size of the fish they swallow. This is due to the fact that only a very few out of the thousands of gars taken annually are opened, and among these it is rare to find one containing a fish newly ingested and still recognizable. The following two records accordingly seem worth preserving.

During a stay of seven weeks at Moon Lake, Miss., a few years ago, I saw over a dozen large alligator gars (*Lepisosteus tristachus*), some of them over 9 feet long, cut up by negroes to smoke for use as food in the winter. In one instance I saw a fish taken from the stomach of a gar. It was a crappie, or calico bass (*Pomoxis sparoides*), 6 inches long.

The second record is the following: The New York Aquarium recently received an alligator gar which had been shipped alive from the lower Mississippi at Memphis, Tenn. It died on the way north, and on reaching the Aquarium was turned over to the Museum, where it was skeletonized. It measured 6 feet 6 inches in length, and on being opened it was found to contain a flat-nosed gar (*Lepisosteus platostomus*) 2 feet 2 inches in length, or exactly one-third its own length. The ingested fish had apparently been but recently swallowed; it was still intact, only the scales and head bones having begun to disintegrate in a few places. It lay in the alimentary canal with the head pointed toward the tail of its captor, indicating that it had been engulfed head first and not from behind.

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## THE LONG-NOSED DACE IN THE HACKENSACK, NEW YORK

The widely-distributed fish (*Rhinichthys cata-ractae*) has only been noted occasionally in New York. Originally described from Niagara Falls it has since been found in the St. Lawrence River, near Ithaca, and at Plattsburg. Mr. Nichols says it is a rare local resident within the fifty-mile limit of New York City. It was, therefore, with interest that I secured a fully adult male in nuptial dress, while on a visit with Mr. George Herbert Lings to his father's estate near Blauvelt, in Rockland County. This example was taken May 19, 1914, in rocky rapids, in a tributary of the Hackensack. Several other fishes, seen at the same time, were believed also to be this species. In quiet water, in the near vicinity, we noted *Abramis crysoleucas*, *Notropis bifrenatus*, *Catostomus commersonii*, *Erimyzon suetta oblongus*, *Lepomis auritus* (nesting) *Eupomotis gibbosus*, *Rana clamata*, *R. palustris*, *R. catesbeiana*, *R. sylvatica* and *Chrysemys picta*.

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## CHUB MACKEREL IN GRAVESEND BAY

Limited numbers of this species (*Scomber colias*) were taken in Gravesend and Sheepshead Bays, during the late summer of 1913. The average length of specimens taken on September 27, 1913, was 142 mm. During the past summer large numbers of compact schools appeared in early June. On June 27, 1914, they averaged 97 mm. in length. Immense numbers were taken for bait and as food for the local colony of Italians. In three hauls of a 100-foot dragnet, 62 pounds were taken. In late August the species was taken by hook at Sheepshead Bay and then averaged 131 mm. in length. The stomachs contained several species of *Arthrostraca* (*Elasmopus* and *Ampithoë*) and small Silversides (*Menidia notata*). Locally they were used as live bait in the capture of Weakfish and Fluke.

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## A LIST OF THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OBSERVED IN RICHLAND COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN MAY, 1913

The writer and Miss Crystal Thompson were sent by the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, to Richland County, Illinois, in May, 1913, to obtain specimens and study the habits of *Rana areolata* Baird. During the field work the following species of amphibians and reptiles were collected:

1. *Ambystoma microstomum* (Cope).—Frequently plowed out of mouse and crayfish burrows.
2. *Bufo americanus* LeConte.—Common.
3. *Chorophilus nigritis* (LeConte).—apparently not common; but one specimen observed.
4. *Acris gryllus* LeConte.—Abundant on the shores of ponds.
5. *Rana pipiens* Schreber.—Common.
6. *Rana areolata* Baird.—Not common; found in crayfish burrows.
7. *Rana catesbeiana* Shaw.—Abundant.
8. *Ophiosaurus ventralis* (Linn.).—Rare.
9. *Heterodon platyrhinus* Latreille.—Three specimens secured.
10. *Natrix fasciatus* (Linn.).—Abundant; frequently headlighted in the ponds at night.
11. *Cyclophis aestivalis* (Linn.).—One specimen observed.
12. *Bacanion constrictor* (Linn.).—Reported as formerly abundant, but now nearly exterminated. Often plowed out of burrows.
13. *Pituophis catenifer sayi* (Schlegel).—Common; frequently plowed out of burrows.
14. *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Linn.).—few observed.
15. *Chelydra serpentina* (Linn.).—Common in creeks and ponds.
16. *Terrapene carolina* (Linn.).—Very abundant; a series of 23 specimens collected and many more observed.

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Edited by J. T. NICHOLS, American Museum of Natural History

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